

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

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DRAFTED BY EA/VN:RHWENZEL:AOA

APPROVED BY EA/VN:RHWENZEL

M/FRM/BP: D.ELLER (DRAFT)

H:(INFO)

EA:RHMILLER (DRAFT)

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P 040120Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AFIN, VS

SUBJECT: ICCS: ADDITIONAL GVN CONTRIBUTION

1. BY SEPTEL YOU ARE BEING AUTHORIZED TO DISBURSE AN ADDITIONAL DOLS 1.578 MILLION TO THE ICCS. THIS REPRESENTS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DOLS 5.658 MILLION APPROPRIATED IN FY 1975 TO DEPARTMENT FOR ICCS AND DOLS 4.08 MILLION ADVANCED BY AID AND CONTRIBUTED TO ICCS IN SEPTEMBER.

2. WE NOW HAVE AN AUTHORIZATION TOTALING DOLS 27.7 MILLION FOR THE ICCS IN THE FY 1975 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT. HOWEVER, A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION BILL REQUESTED IN THE FINAL SESSION OF THE 93RD CONGRESS WAS NOT ACTED UPON, NOR WERE WE ABLE TO OBTAIN AN ICCS LINE ITEM IN THE CRA. THUS, THE DOLS 1.578 MILLION IS ALL THAT WE ARE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO

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THE ICCS NOW. WE WILL PROMPTLY RESUBMIT OUR REQUEST FOR A

SUPPLEMENTAL FY 1975 APPROPRIATION WHEN THE NEW CONGRESS CONVENES IN JANUARY. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT LIKELY TO SEE THIS SUPPLEMENTAL APPROVED BEFORE THE END OF MARCH.

3. SINCE WE ESTIMATE THAT THE CURRENT DOLS 1.578 MILLION PAYMENT WILL NOT LAST THE ICCS MUCH BEYOND JANUARY, THE NEED

FOR AN ADDITIONAL GVN CONTRIBUTION AT THIS TIME IS CLEAR. WE BELIEVE EMBASSY SHOULD NOW RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE GVN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AT WHATEVER LEVEL IT THINKS APPROPRIATE. IN DOING SO EMBASSY SHOULD NOTE THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THE ICCS OPERATIONAL, ESPECIALLY DURING THIS CURRENT PERIOD OF NVA MILITARY ESCALATION. EMBASSY COULD ALSO POINT OUT THAT THE U.S. HAS NOW PAID MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF THE 1974-75 ICCS BUDGET; THUS WE WOULD HOPE AND EXPECT THAT THE GVN WOULD NOW COMMIT THE BALANCE OF ITS REGULAR SHARE, I.E. DOLS 2.8 MILLION. (IN ORDER TO DISCOURAGE ICCS PROFLIGACY, A SUGGESTED TACTIC MIGHT BE A TWO-PHASE GVN PAYMENT -- E.G. DOLS 1.4 MILLION NOW AND THE BALANCE IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH.) THE FACT THAT THE GVN'S FOREX RESERVES NOW STAND AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN SEVERAL MONTHS MIGHT BE ANOTHER USEFUL ARGUMENT FOR AN EARLY GVN CONTRIBUTION. COMBINED US-GVN PAYMENTS OF APPROXIMATELY DOLS 4.4 MILLION WOULD HOPEFULLY GIVE US ADEQUATE BREATHING SPACE TO GET THE SUPPLEMENTAL THROUGH IN THE 94TH CONGRESS.

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## Message Attributes

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